

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer assembly comprising:
 - a tube having:
 - an open end,
 - a first external surface extending from the open end and having a first external diameter,
 - a first internal surface extending from the open end and having a first internal diameter,
 - a reduced external diameter portion adjacent the first external surface and having a second external diameter less than the first external diameter,
 - a reduced internal diameter portion adjacent the first internal surface and having a second internal diameter less than the first internal diameter,
 - an elongated external surface adjacent the reduced external diameter portion having a third external diameter substantially equal to the first external diameter, and
 - an elongated internal surface adjacent the reduced internal diameter portion having a third internal diameter substantially equal to the first internal diameter,
 - wherein the reduced external diameter portion and the reduced internal diameter portion define[[s]] a retention groove formed in and lying below the first external surface and the elongated external surface; and
 - a holding clamp configured as a flat plate having a substantially circular aperture formed therein and a slot extending outwardly from the substantially circular aperture without intersecting a periphery of the flat plate, wherein the reduced external diameter portion of the tube is disposed in the slot.
2. (Previously Presented) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retention groove is annular.
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube further comprises a sealing groove formed in the elongated external surface thereof interposed between the retention groove and the open end of the tube, wherein the sealing groove is adapted to receive sealing means.

6. (Previously Presented) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sealing means is an O-ring.

7. (Previously Presented) The tube retainer assembly of claim 1, further including a device having an inlet/outlet port therein for receiving the tube.

8–18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the first external surface and the first internal surface have substantially the same length.

20. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 19, wherein the first external reduced diameter portion and the first internal reduced diameter portion have substantially the same length.

21. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 20, wherein the elongated external surface and the elongated internal surface have substantially the same length.

22. (New) A tube retaining assembly comprising:

a tube having an external surface and an internal surface, a rolled groove formed in the external surface that defines a reduced external diameter portion and a corresponding reduced internal diameter portion; and

a flat plate having a substantially circular aperture formed therein and a slot extending outwardly from the substantially circular aperture without intersecting a periphery of the flat plate, wherein the rolled groove of the tube is disposed in the slot.

23. (New) The tube retaining assembly of claim 22, wherein the rolled groove is an annular rolled groove.

24. (New) The tube retaining assembly of claim 22, wherein the rolled groove includes at least one flat portion.

25. (New) The tube retaining assembly of claim 22, wherein the tube includes a second rolled groove formed in the external surface, the second rolled groove defining a second reduced external diameter portion and a corresponding second reduced internal diameter portion.

26. (New) The tube retaining assembly of claim 25, further comprising an O ring disposed in the second rolled groove.

27. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 22, further comprising a device having a port for receiving the tube.

28. (New) A tube retainer assembly comprising:

a hollow tube having a rolled retention groove and a rolled sealing groove, each of the rolled retention groove and rolled sealing groove defining reduced diameter portions of an internal surface of the hollow tube; and

a flat plate having a hole formed therein and a slot extending outwardly from the hole, wherein the rolled retention groove of the tube is disposed in the slot.

29. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 28, further comprising an O ring disposed in the rolled sealing groove.

30. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 28, wherein the rolled retention groove is an annular groove.
31. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 28, wherein the rolled retention groove has at least one flat portion.
32. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 28, wherein the rolled sealing groove is an annular groove.
33. (New) The tube retainer assembly of claim 28, further comprising a device having a port for receiving the tube.